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DEPARTMENT FOR PA, NEA/ARN, INR/IC/CD, INR/S:STHIBEAULT  
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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: Damascus Media Reaction: UNSC Resolution on Syria,  
Iraq, Palestinian Territories (11/2-2)

11. Summary: Syrian newspapers published the text of UN Security Council Resolution 1636 demanding full Syrian cooperation with the UN probe into the murder of former Lebanese PM Al-Hariri. They highlighted the fact that the resolution dropped the threat of sanctions and called on Syria to cooperate with the investigation commission. Papers also published the text of FM Al-Shar'a's speech to the Security Council and reported on the other speeches.

On 11/2 papers reported local, Arab and international reactions to the UNSC resolution, saying that "the Mehliis report and the UNSC resolution show premeditated intentions to finalize the US-Zionist project," and that "the resolution is new proof of US hegemony and its double standard policy."

Papers also reported a demonstration near the U.S. Embassy in Damascus by a private public relations group, civil institutions and crowds of students in a show of support for President Asad and in protest of pressure and accusations against Syria.

On Iraq, papers reported a call by Iraqi PM Al-Ja'fary for a year's extension of the stay of occupation troops in Iraq and a White House statement that withdrawal from Iraq would encourage extremists to demolish Israel.

End of summary.

22. Selected Headlines:

"President Al-Asad receives a letter from Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani on the situation in the region and issues of mutual concern and cooperation between the two countries. President Asad sends letters to the leaders of the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait on the regional situation and pressures on Syria" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/1)

"The UN Security Council adopts a resolution dropping the sanctions and calling on Syria to cooperate with the international investigation. Foreign Minister Al-Shara: There is a hidden intention to accuse us; we will cooperate with the commission to establish the truth" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/1)

"Unreceptive Arab and international reactions to the Mehliis report and UNSC Resolution 1636: The report and the resolution harbor premeditated intentions to finalize the US-Zionist project" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/2)

"Thousands of Syrians stage a sit-in Al-Rawda Square in rejection of pressure and false accusations" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/2)

"Russia: The Syrian investigation committee is a positive step. China: We opposed sanctions, to maintain stability in the region. Algeria: Fear and worry from the UN Security Council resolution. Brazil: The preliminary draft resolution violated the principle of 'the accused is innocent unless proven otherwise.'" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/01)

"Israel welcomes Resolution 1636 and calls for implementing the Larsen report" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/2)

"Speaker of the People's Assembly appeals to Speakers of Arab and international parliaments to side with Syria in the face of foreign pressures against it" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/1)

"Israel arrests 3 youths in occupied Golan on charges of resisting Israeli occupation" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 11/1)

"Israeli occupation forces assassinate two activists in Jebalia. Hamas threatens severe retaliation and calls for supporting the Palestinian Authority. Conditional Israeli approval to open the Rafah border crossing" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/2)

"Sharon renews challenges to the international will: Settlement activities will continue in the West Bank and Golan. One Palestinian martyred in Qabatiya. Palestinian fear of Israeli strike" (Government-owned Tishreen, 11/1)

"Al-Ja'fari calls for a one-year extension for occupation troops. The White House: Withdrawal from Iraq would encourage extremists to demolish Israel" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 11/2)

"Seven U.S. soldiers killed in al-Youssefiya and Balad. US forces kill and injure over 125 Iraqis in Karbala"

(Government-owned Tishreen, 11/1)

### 13. Editorial Block Quotes:

#### "Transparency of the Syrian Position"

Omar Jaftali, an editorialist in government-owned Tishreen, commented (11/1): "Now that the Security Council has adopted a resolution calling for full Syrian cooperation with the UN investigation commission, and dropped the threat of imposing economic sanctions, it should be noted that the attempts to turn the UN Security Council into a mechanism for investigating Syria and interfering with the authorities of the UN investigation commission have failed. The majority of the world community has no suspicions about the transparency of the Syrian position and the deliberate injustice represented by the premeditated political stands towards Syria...."

"The UNSC resolution is more political than judicial. Syria rejects the accusation that it did not cooperate with the investigation into the Al-Hariri assassination. We must stress that the emphasis by some international parties on the issue of Syria's non-cooperation with the investigation commission is a shameful hypocrisy and a preconceived political position...."

"The Security Council resolution remained more political than judicial, as evidenced by the debate that took place in the session, when the British Foreign Secretary and the US Secretary of State deliberately repeated the refrain of

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accusations that Syria has not cooperated -- either with the investigation commission or on other Middle East issues.

"Syria has all along stated its desire to arrive at the truth and identify the criminals, based on conclusive evidence. Based on this legal rule, the international community, represented by the United Nations, is called upon to help Syria continue the investigation in a transparent way to reach the result that Syria and the whole world seek: uncovering and punishing the real culprits in the crime of the Al-Hariri assassination...."

"While thanking its friends in the international community for their constructive position in the Security Council and in all other international forums, Syria reaffirms that, just as it was a pioneer in its cooperation with the United Nations and its commitment to all its resolutions, it will cooperate fully with the international organization and its specialized committees. This is because Syria was and still is working with established credibility and transparency to enforce international law and achieve peace and security in the region."

#### "Recollections at a Difficult Time"

Dr. Fayez Sayegh, chief editor of government-owned Al-Thawra, commented (11/1): "This is not the first time that Syria has come under such immense pressure to bring it to its knees...."

"The Syrian people have always been able to overcome difficulties and resume life calmly and with self-confidence. Syria's secret lies in its national unity and full accord between the people and the political leadership.... Foreign attempts to separate the people from the leadership in Syria only strengthen the bonds between them and heighten the Syrian citizen's sense of responsibility, regardless of his political, social, and cultural position."

"The growing campaign against Syria, however, dictates further national cohesion and the adoption of additional measures and initiatives to achieve greater national unity, so as to make it impossible for others to wager on any penetration of the domestic front, no matter what the pressure...."

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